

The Boomer



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Family Support Day taught
children Reserve mission

See story, pg. 8-9

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COMMENTARY

A final salute

Commander's Call

Brig. Gen. Richard Severson
Commander, 459th Air Refueling Wing



I pen this final column today with very mixed emotions ... excited about moving on to a new position and the challenge that presents but regretful that my tenure as commander of this fine wing must come to an end.

As I contemplated what might be an appropriate message on this occasion, a number of thoughts crossed my mind ... a final sermon, a few more Lombardi quotes, or perhaps something inspirational. However, as I passed the 89th headquarters recently and observed Old Glory waving, I realized how blessed we are as a nation, a people, and for me personally, how truly blessed I have been to command the proud professionals of the 459th Airlift Wing and now Air Refueling Wing. It was then I realized that I just wanted to thank all of you for all you have given me ... your support, your trust, your respect, your friendship and for all you have taught me over the past 70 months.

I especially want to thank the spouses and family members for the innumerable contributions you make. You face many challenges as you manage the unique demands that military life places on you as you deal with deployments and family separations. Your support and dedication provide a vital element of stability and are essential for our success as a wing.

You, the traditional reservists, civilians and air reserve technicians of the 459th are the very best and brightest any commander could hope to have.

Some of the proudest moments of my life have been to observe and receive the recognition for your efforts, whether they be formal inspections, real world missions, or for exceptional performance. These accomplishments I have viewed with my eyes ... I will forever treasure in my heart. You definitely are the very best!

My replacement has not been named as of this date but I'm sure the new commander will bring new insight and perspective to the position and the 459th will continue to be a trend setter within the command. As you move onward, I challenge you to keep doing those things that have contributed to your success as a team and enabled you to make a difference: doing the right things ... giving your best effort ... working hard ... working smart ... working together ... and believing in yourselves. For as Coach Lombardi once said "you can be as great as you want to be if you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things that are worthwhile, it can be done."

Once again, let me say that it has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your commander and I will forever be indebted to you for your support. I have been the beneficiary of your excellence, and it has provided me with a quality of life in the work place that few on the outside can hope for or understand, and for that ... I salute you all!



Family care is a concern for everyone

By Master Sgt. Clifford Schindler
459th Logistics Readiness Flight First Sergeant

As a single parent in the Air Force Reserve, I've seen the importance of having a well thought out family care plan on a first hand basis.

Especially now, when Air Force Reserve personnel are being deployed at an all-time high to meet the challenges of supporting contingency operations, it's essential to have a good plan in place. Pre-planning to ensure your children are taken care of in the event you are deployed will save you a lot of stress when the situation arises.

Every member of the Air Force Reserve who is either a single parent or married to another military member must have a family care plan documented on an AF Form 357. In addition, it's recommended that you have a current power of attorney on file as well as financial arrangements to take care of your children in the event you are gone for an extended period of time.

Family care plans afford the Reserve mem-

ber some piece of mind while they are deployed as well as ensuring your children's

lives continue as uninterrupted as possible. In addition to outlining exactly who will be responsible for your children in your absence, it also allows you to specify detailed information such as:

The name, address and telephone numbers of your child's school and any after school care provider.

Any special medical needs, language limitations, or other

unique situations (attention deficit disorder, speech impediments, medications, phobias, etc.) a caregiver should be aware of for all dependents they will be responsible for. Special organizations your child is involved with, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, sports,

church groups, etc.

In this day and age of continuous unrest in the world, we must be cognizant of our commitment to the Air Force Reserve while balancing our family responsibilities. Because we are all world-wide deployable and must be ready to go within a prescribed period of time, it is necessary to ensure our loved ones are being properly cared for in our absence.

Please see your first sergeant if you have any questions regarding the family care program.



On the cover



Brig. Gen. Richard Severson, commander, 459 ARW, salutes the junior warriors who attended Family Support Day on Saturday, March 19. Brig. Gen. Severson explained to the children what they would learn and see throughout the day. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James Watts, 69 APS).

FLIGHTLINE

Question: What is your favorite book and why?



Staff Sgt. Bernard Horton, 459 CF

"The 'Bible' because all the answers to life's questions are in there."



Capt. Alison Farver, 459 CF

"The 'Harry Potter' series because the author has really thought out the plot."



Master Sgt. Howard Lee, 459 ARW

"'Criminal Law and Procedure' by Ronald Boyce because it shows the pro's and con's of the legal system."



Senior Master Sgt. Larry Sauvager, 69 APS

"'Angels and Demons' by Dan Brown because I like the to learn about the history of the vatican and innerworkings of the Catholic church."



Master Sgt. Conrad Sullivan, 69 APS

"The 'Left Behind' series because it moved me being of Christian faith."

Officials announce new healthcare benefit for Guard and Reserve

WASHINGTON (AFP)—A new health-care plan, with coverage comparable to that enjoyed by federal employees under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plan, will be available to eligible members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families April 25, Defense Department officials announced March 24 at the Pentagon.

The new plan, called Tricare Reserve Select, will serve as a bridge for reserve component troops entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by civilian employers or other health insurance plans. It applies to all reserve component servicemembers who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, and who agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve.

The coverage will be applied retroactively, officials said. “We are committed to providing the proper combination of compensation and benefits that will allow us to attract and retain the world’s best fighting force,” said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. He said that while large numbers

of National Guard and Reserve servicemembers have health insurance through their employers, DOD officials, “recognize the importance of maintaining a continuity of care as they transition from their employers to serve with us and then back, as well as the need for some of them who may be self-employed or who work for small businesses to have health coverage.”

The program is a nationwide, premium-based plan that closely resembles the Tricare Standard coverage of the active-duty force. Its rates are based on the premiums for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield standard service benefit plan for federal government employees.

Premiums will be adjusted annually. Reserve component servicemembers and their family members also now are eligible for benefits 90 days before activation, and for up to six months after demobilization, said Thomas Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

“For every 90 days of active-duty service, Guard and Reserve personnel are eligible for

one year of Tricare coverage for a modest fee,” Mr. Hall said. “That means, for example, that personnel who have served two years of active duty are eligible for eight years of health-care coverage.”

Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, praised the members of the National Guard and Reserve. “They have shouldered a tremendous share of the global war on terror in which we are deeply engaged,” he said, “and they have performed exceptionally well.

“They mobilized and deployed side by side with active-duty forces, many serving in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Mr. Winkenwerder said. “They served with pride and loyalty and while we have, in the past, offered full health-care benefits for these servicemembers, and for their families, this change will shortly offer a more comprehensive benefit for transition back to private life, and, importantly, the opportunity for those who have served in contingency operations, the option for obtaining Tricare coverage on a longer term at very attractive rates.”

Air Force officials project budget shortfall

WASHINGTON—Supporting the war on terrorism and ongoing operations around the world have created a projected budget shortfall forcing the Air Force to tighten its belt.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper has directed all major commands to cut back on low priority spending in an attempt to stave off a budget crisis.”

We expect to be \$733 million short in military personnel funding,” General Jumper said in a message to major command commanders. “And based on our current burn rates, we project a \$3 billion shortfall in our (operations and maintenance) funds by the end of the year.”

The unexpected debt can be largely attributed to war-on-terrorism expenses, officials said. The fiscal 2005 supplemental funding bill is currently working its way through Congress.” We’re faced with some uncertainty because congressional action still lies ahead and may not be completed until April,” the general said. “We will have to realign

some funding to ensure all commands are solvent while we await the supplemental bill’s enactment.”

Although it will affect modernization efforts, funds will be reprogrammed as a partial solution. The general identified the top two funding priorities. “We must continue to support requirements of the global war on terrorism and ongoing operations in the theater,” General Jumper said. “We must also protect efforts supporting the next rotation to those operations.”

While readiness and combat training, including flying hours, will remain a high priority, the general has directed slowing those activities if it is clearly necessary to meet the top two priorities. Some areas will be hit harder.” Facilities, business operations, travel, administrative functions, nondeployment-related training and new contracts rank as lower priorities,” he said.

“These areas should be slowed significantly through the end of the fiscal year.”

Despite the cuts, officials have said they

remain committed to focusing their remaining funds on maintaining space superiority, providing desired combat effects to the joint warfighter, and maintaining strategic deterrence. Air Mobility Command officials also cut back on travel, supply and equipment purchases that don’t affect current combat operations, officials said.

They have also limited facility projects to emergency work only and slowed planned technology upgrades. Mobility flying operations, required depot maintenance and all war-related activities will not be affected, AMC officials said. Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard will not immediately be affected. Their appropriation funding bill is separate from the active-duty system.”

We will do all we can to find more funding,” General Jumper said. “But, we have to cover the military personnel bill and ongoing war effort first. I’m asking that all Airmen consider whether each dollar spent is spent wisely.”

Flexibility key to force development in Air Force Reserve

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor
Citizen Airman Magazine

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Force development for members of the Air Force Reserve will be tailored to meet the needs of Citizen Airmen and be flexible enough to satisfy the career goals of reservists of all shapes and sizes, according to the officer overseeing the program.

Maj. Dean Hicks, force development point person for the Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon, said no one will lose sight of the "unique needs" of Reserve officers, enlisted troops and civilians.

"The vision for Reserve force development - as an element of Total Force development - is to create a Reserve force that is responsive to overall Air Force requirements and can be managed as an integral part of the Total Force," Major Hicks said. "In doing so, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are predominantly a part-time force and must respect the fact that we share our reservists with their civilian employers and their families. The challenge is finding a way to deliberately develop our people while still respecting their time and volunteerism."

"Force development" is the term coined by senior leaders when discussing how the Air Force trains, educates and assigns its Airmen. It includes changes to developmental education and the assignment process. Force development stems from direction given by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper in November 2002.

Much of the force development "foundation" comes from the Air Force Strategic Personnel Plan. It's also based on the recently published Air Force Doctrine Document 1-1, Leadership and Force Development.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, emphasized the importance of the doctrine document in a recent message.

"It lays the foundation for how we deliberately develop the force," he said. "We have taken its tenets to heart."

In the 18-page document called "Force Development (Reserve Officer) Concept of Operations," senior leaders pinpointed what's needed during this transformation.

"(The goal is) translating desired mission effects into capabilities and determining the human competencies needed to satisfy them," the document said.

Force development, Major Hicks said, will help ensure Reserve officers - be they at the tactical, operational or strategic level of the fight - "will have the requisite occupational and leadership competencies to excel."

Force development affects each functional area. Similar to the active-duty force, the Reserve formed an integrated process team almost two years ago to look at functional areas across the board. The Reserve organized the team around the various reservist categories - Active Guard and Reserve, individual mobilization augmentee, traditional reservist and air reserve technician. The team met four times with the most recent meeting taking place in February.

Officers have already seen two changes, both in the area of selection for developmental education courses. In a change occurring in 2004, personnel records were also updated to reflect reduced emphasis on secondary degrees.

Much of the early process focused on re-vamping the career paths of about 16,000 officers, but the command's top chief master sergeant said the same transformation is

beginning for the 60,000-plus members of the enlisted force.

"The ultimate goal is to ensure the Air Force Reserve deliberately develops enlisted people to meet future needs," said Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, AFRC command chief master sergeant.

Meanwhile, as the Reserve enlisted transformation begins, the chief said he has six priorities:

- * Proper utilization of the enlisted force.
- * Developing the enlisted force to assume greater responsibility.
- * Ensuring that families are priority one.
- * Continuing to foster the relationship between the Citizen Airman and the employer.
- * Recognition of the Reserve's people.
- * Ensuring all enlisted people have a fair and equitable opportunity to succeed.

Chief Winsett described why it is so important to ensure any changes to the enlisted system work.

"Lots of folks - civilian and military - don't realize there are 60,000 enlisted people in all categories - unit, IMA, AGR, ART and active duty - assigned to the command," the chief said. "Those men and women are counting on us to make the right call and to ensure that the recommendation or decision is always fair and equitable."

Chief Winsett met with the enlisted integrated process team March 17 and 18 in Washington, D.C. The outcome of the meeting was not readily available. With change on the horizon, Major Hicks emphasized the need to tailor force development to the needs of Air Force reservists. "The continuing goal in Reserve force development is deliberate and organized development tailored to meet AFR needs within the context and culture of the Citizen Airman program," he said.



Two deployed KC-135s get rare engine swaps

By Master Sgt. Michael A. Ward
380 AEW Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — If a consumer rating service reviewed Air Force aircraft, the KC-135 Stratotanker would most certainly earn a “best buy” rating. After all, it is one of the most dependable aircraft in the Air Force inventory and would definitely get high marks for reliability.

But, even the best can have the occasional bad streak. Recently, engines on two separate KC-135s assigned here had to be replaced, officials said. “I’ve been associated with tankers since 1995 and had never seen an engine change until I came here,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Manns, of the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “I’ve heard of them coming off the wings for corrosion control and things of that nature, but to have two called bad in the span of four days is very unique.”

“We used to be like the Maytag repairman, but the engines are starting to get old,” said Staff Sgt. Eric Peterson, a 380th EAMXS engine mechanic. The first aircraft developed an overheating problem. The second one had internal damage and needed to be

repaired here, officials said.

“We knew we had the second one over our heads, but we were waiting for the investigation to be completed and the new engine to show up,” Sergeant Peterson said. “It arrived a week after we got the first engine done. I was kind of hoping it would be a little longer.”

The KC-135, powered by four turbojet engines, has been in the inventory since 1956. Officials said the last major upgrade to its engines began in the late 1980s. “The average engine has been on the wings for about 17 years,” Lieutenant Manns said. “Mechanics don’t have a whole lot of experience changing engines, so when they actually have to, there is a learning curve. For engine mechanics, this is the hardest task they will ever have.”

“It’s not difficult, but it is time consuming,” said Staff Sgt. JC Chandler, a mechanic with the 380th EAMXS. “It’s your basic removal of nuts here and there, but it’s the troubleshooting that takes a lot of skill.” It takes two to three days to replace a KC-135 engine, officials said. Each engine weighs about 5,000 pounds and has thousands of parts. Putting it together requires talent. Put-

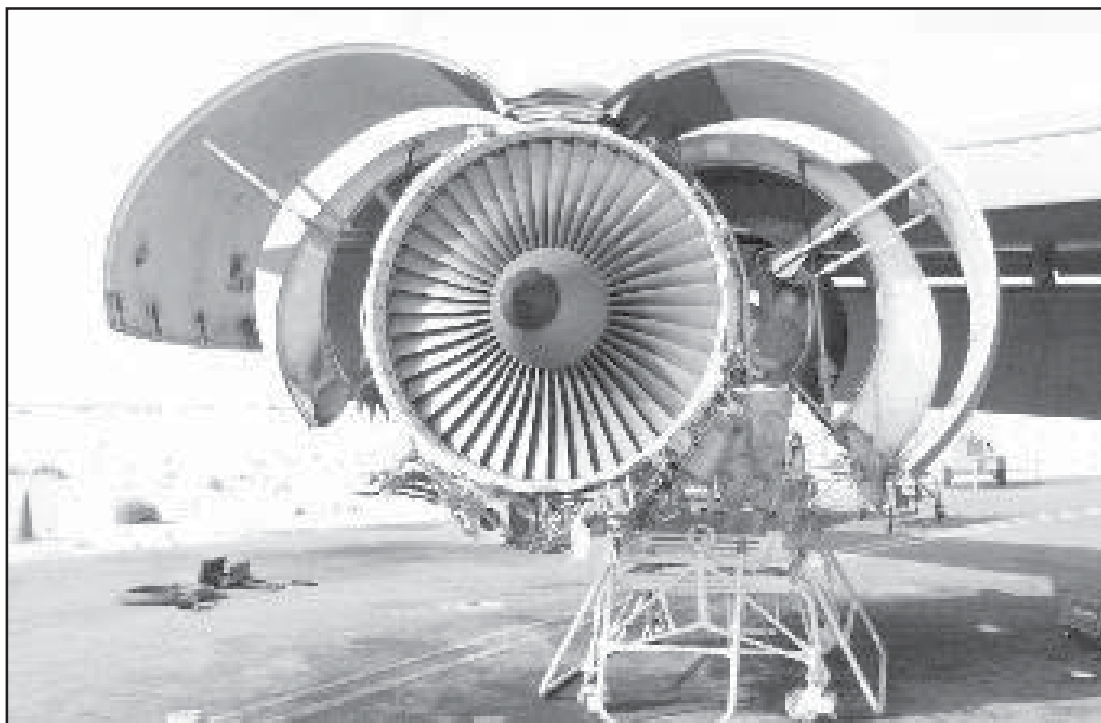
ting it back on the wing requires a mix of engineering, hands-on labor and caution. “I’m never excited to see an engine change because it’s about one of the most dangerous jobs that we have,” Sergeant Chandler said.

The engine is hoisted toward the wing on a trailer. Large chains placed around the trailer are ratcheted tight to keep the engine in place while it is being secured to its mount on the wing. “The amount of pressure we’re applying makes it extremely dangerous, especially if you are on the (stand),” Sergeant Peterson said. “You are right by the engine chain, and if it snaps, you’re gone.”

Once the engine is on, it is checked out and given a quality-assurance inspection.

“The first engine change went better than expected,” Sergeant Peterson said. “We had zero quality-assurance defects, and that’s a rare occurrence in itself.” Officials said the second engine also had no problems, and both aircraft have been returned to the flying schedule.

“When you get it all going, there’s a big sense of pride,” Sergeant Peterson said. “Everything comes together and everything works.”



SOUTHWEST ASIA — Senior Airman Abby Hernandez reconnects components of a KC-135 Stratotanker engine that was just installed. KC-135 engines rarely go through an engine swap, but maintainers at a forward-deployed location recently had to replace an engine on two KC-135s in the span of about a week. Airman Hernandez is deployed with the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bruce Hedrick)

Aerial refueling saved lives in Korean War

By Capt. Patrick Maloney
Wing Public Affairs

The Korean War provided a glimpse into the potential of aerial refueling. In Korea, fighters were able to carry full combat loads over great distances and loiter as an on-call response force ready to provide close air support on a moments notice. There is no way of accurately measuring how many American lives were saved by this capability, but it is crystal clear that aerial refueling made it possible. Not only did tankers keep aircraft aloft, they saved countless American lives. A decade later the scale of this effort would grow to dwarf anything ever done before.

In August of 1964, combat aircraft were deployed to the South Pacific as a show of strength in response to the Tonkin Gulf incident in which two US destroyers were fired upon by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. 48 KC-135s were sent to provide aerial refueling support. This number would remain relatively constant until the North Vietnamese launched their Spring Offensive in 1972.

As the scale of the offensive grew, US military leaders realized they needed additional fighter aircraft in South East Asia, and they needed them now! KC-135s made it possible for F-4s and F-105s to fly from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., Takhli Air Base, Thailand non-stop.

As a result, two additional fighter wings were available for combat within 7 days! Once the additional airpower was engaged, US forces began to roll back the Spring Offensive. This deployment was a foreshadowing of what we know today as the Air and Space Expeditionary Force. Combat units and mobility support aircraft were married together to bring decisive military power to

a forward deployed location from stateside bases within days. KC-135s, along with airlift aircraft such as the C-5 and C-141, made this possible.

The KC-135 was a potent force multiplier in Vietnam. SAC deployed 114 to

U-Tapo Air Base, Thailand to support

ible or dominating. Tankers made it possible.

While there were numerous operations conducted throughout the war, none was as profound and decisive as Operation Linebacker II. This operation lasted for eleven days from Dec. 18 to Dec. 29, 1972. It was a campaign designed to force the North Viet-

namese back to the peace table after they walked out of the Paris Peace Talks on December 13, 1972.

President Richard Nixon ordered the resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam after it was halted in deference to the peace talks. With the talks now at a standstill, all bets were off and the strikes began in earnest.

Air Force and Navy fighter aircraft attacked North Vietnam during the day and B-52s struck at night. It was a



F-4E refueling prior to attacking a target in North Vietnam. Its 500 lb MK-82 bomb load is clearly visible, along with topped off fuel venting from the wings. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Leo Finkel)

fighters and 58 KC-135s were sent to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa to support B-52 missions launched from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

As the air war intensified, so did the workload of the KC-135. The numbers are telling. According to Keith Hutcheson in his work entitled "Air Mobility, the Evolution of Global Reach", KC-135s flew 32,000 sorties to support bomber, fighter and reconnaissance aircraft in 1968. By 1972, that number had climbed to 34,700 sorties during which 1.4 billion pounds of fuel was delivered to receiver aircraft.

As a result of the tanker effort, the US was able to maintain air superiority throughout Southeast Asia and to strike any target selected by military and civilian leadership. American airpower had never been so flex-

truly an around the clock campaign.

All aircraft involved, bomber or fighter, relied on the KC-135 to accomplish the mission. Without tankers, the B-52s could not make the 6,000 mile round trip flight from Andersen AFB, Guam to North Vietnam and back. Fighters flying from South Vietnam and Thailand relied on tankers to increase loiter time and range, and to properly synchronize strikes with other aircraft.

Linebacker II came to a close after 700 night and 650 daylight strikes convinced the North Vietnamese to return to Paris for a resumption of peace talks. Operation Linebacker II was one of the most decisive aerial campaigns ever carried out by the United States, and it would have been impossible without the service provided by the KC-135 and her crews.

Family Support Day educated child

By Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson
459th Mission Support Flight



Photos by Staff Sgt.

Fifty kids, ages five through 15, were lined up bright and early Saturday morning of the March UTA. They stood outside the hangar, waiting for their marching orders.

Senior Master Sgt. Harry Tafe, explained how to make a military formation and taught them how to salute. After the children had the salute down pat, he turned them over to Brig. Gen. Richard Severson, 459th Air Refueling Wing commander. The children greeted Brig. Gen. Severson with a sharp salute and some giggles.

The wing commander proceeded to talk explain to the children about their day ahead and how it might be very similar to what their parents may experience before a deployment. He also explained that the salute was a sign of respect and that next time their parents asked them to do something at home, they should salute and say "yes ma'am or sir."

After his briefing, Brig. Gen. Severson took a few questions from the junior warriors where he was asked questions like, "Is it neat being a general? How long does it take to get to be a general? If you are a general, can you make people get you a glass of lemonade?"

After the questions were patiently answered, the kids got to experience a mobility processing line where they received ID cards, dog tags, t-shirts and briefings from our medical unit, and the chaplain. Once their processing was complete they headed out to load onto a KC-135 where a crew from the 756th Air Refueling Squadron gave them a tour of the cockpit and the boom pod.

The 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was also onboard to explain their aeromedical evacuation mission, complete with a mannequin loaded on a litter. The junior warriors then went on to tour a UH-1 helicopter from the 1st Helicopter Squadron where they later thrilled the kids with a tactical, straight up departure in front of the hangar.



Children on the mission of Reserve force



James Watts, 69 APS

The children also got to see an F-16 up close and get all the facts on flying one from the 121st Fighter Squadron. After that, the 89th Civil Engineer Squadron brought over Foam 2, a fire engine equipped with handling airport emergencies. The firemen gave a demonstration on suiting up and shooting water from the cannons, from atop of the truck.

There was also a Cessna on display from the Civil Air Patrol where the children were able sit in the cockpit to see what it is like to be at the controls. After experiencing aircraft, the children got to listen to our own security force members explain their mission.

Tech. Sgt. Todd Goings, 459th Security Forces Squadron, gave a presentation on everything from donning chemical gear to heating up a meal-ready-to-eat. Members from the 89th Security Forces Squadron assisted Goings with a surprise convoy consisting of a patrol car (lights and sirens of course), a humvee and an all-terrain vehicle. They also gave a military working dog demonstration where the kids laughed as they saw the bad guy, equipped with safety padding, get chased down by the working dog. Their day wound down with camouflage face painting and cracking open the MRE's. Although they were shown how to heat up one, the day ended with a pizza party and cake.

The spouses received similar tours and split off for part of the day to receive benefit briefings from Master Sgt. Matt Brown and an overview of the mission of the 459 ARW from Brig. Gen. Severson. They made it back in time to meet up with the warriors for the pizza party.

A few parents said their kids complained about getting up early, but at the end of the day, said it was definitely worth the early morning wake up.



DFAS and myPay officials assure personal-data security

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) With “phishing” scams occurring more frequently, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials said they want to assure customers that every precaution is taken to secure data.

Customers should be aware that the agency and its Web-based system, myPay, will not ask for personal or financial information by e-mail, DFAS officials said.

Individual DFAS customers can enter the myPay Web site with a personal identification number to access the secure financial page to make changes to personal information, officials said.

Phishing attacks trick people into passing personal information by luring them to false corporate Web sites or by requesting personal information be sent in a return e-mail.

“Phishers” send e-mails or pop-up messages claiming to be from a business or organization individuals would routinely deal with — an Internet service provider, bank, online payment service or even a govern-

ment agency, said Federal Trade Commission officials. The message usually tells people that they need to ‘update’ or ‘validate’ account information and might threaten dire consequence if they don’t respond.

People are directed to a Web site that mim-

ics a legitimate organization’s site. The purpose of the bogus site is to trick them into divulging personal information so the scam operators can steal identities and make purchases or commit crimes in the victim’s name, officials said.

DFAS officials offer the following tips to help avoid getting hooked by a phishing scam:

— Use anti-virus software and keep it up to date. Some phishing e-mails contain software that can harm computers or track ac-

tivities on the Internet without the user’s knowledge.

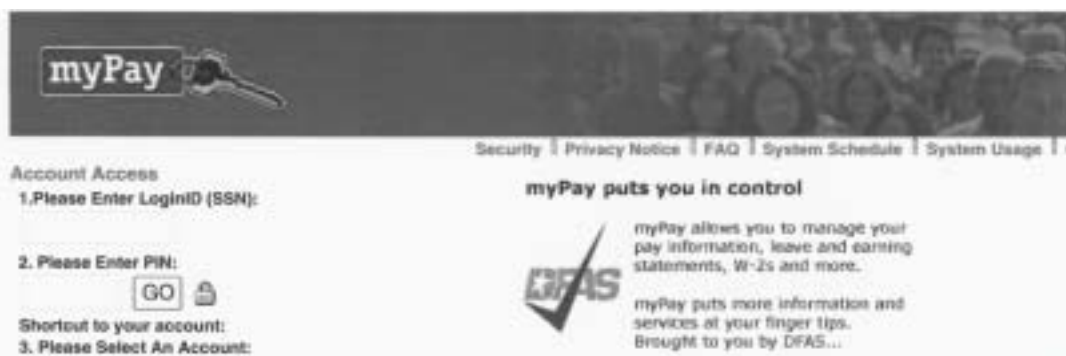
— Do not e-mail personal or financial information. E-mail is not a secure method of transmitting personal information.

If people initiate a transaction and want to provide their personal or financial information through a

Web site, look for indicators that the site is secure, such as an image of a lock or lock icon on the browser’s status bar or a Web site address that begins with an “https.”

Unfortunately, no indicator is foolproof; some phishers have forged security icons as well. The myPay site combines strong encryption software and secure technology with the user’s Social Security number, PIN and secure Web address or DOD-specific telephone number.

These all act as safeguards against unauthorized access, officials said. This combination prevents information from being retrieved by outside sources while information is being transmitted.



Air Force Portal provides reduced sign-on to myPay

WASHINGTON — Airmen have one less password to remember thanks to a new link between the Air Force Portal and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay Web site.

With much of the Air Force transitioning from face-to-face customer service to online self-help Web sites, many Airmen are left with several passwords, login names and Web addresses to remember.

For Airmen, the Air Force Portal has eliminated much of the trouble of remembering all those passwords and login names. And recently, designers of the portal and DFAS maintainers teamed up to enable Airmen to remember one less password.

Airmen can now have the portal remember their login name and password for myPay, the DFAS online site for pay information, leave and earnings statements, tax forms and allotments.

The change makes it easier for Airmen to access their information online, and is another example of how the portal is making life easier for Airmen to get the information they need, said Richard Gustafson, Air Force financial management chief information officer. “This has made easy access to pay information available to all Airmen across the entire community,” Mr. Gustafson said.

“Integration of applications such as myPay is just one example of the power of the Air Force Portal to our organization. Each new capability that is added increases the value of the portal and makes our lives just a little easier.”

To take advantage of the new feature, portal users must already have an active myPay account. After logging on to the portal, users can click “Applications” on the right side of the screen and then scroll down to “myPay (E/MSS).”

When they click the myPay link, the portal will create a dialogue box to help guide them through the setup process. Setup requires entering the user’s login ID and PIN for myPay.

Once set up, users need only log into the portal and click the myPay link to get instant access to their pay information. Having to remember many user passwords is one of the reasons the portal was created.

The idea is called “reduced sign-on” and the portal does it for myriad Air Force information applications and Web sites.

Reduced sign-on is beneficial because it eliminates the need for multiple passwords and login names, and it provides a single and consistent login interface and deters the most common threat to network security — users writing down their passwords, Mr. Gustafson said. Visit the Air Force Portal at <http://my.af.mil>.

Personnel records to stay at AFPC

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Airmen who retire or separate don't have to wait several months to receive requested copies of certain records because of a recent change in how the Air Force maintains personnel records.

The 49-year-old practice of sending nearly 5,500 personnel records each month to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis ended in February as part of an effort to save money and give Airmen better access to their records, officials said.

Former active-duty Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004, can request copies of records by writing to AFPC/DPFFCMP, 550 C St. W., Suite 19, Randolph AFB, TX 78150 or faxing (210) 565-4021 or DSN 665-4021.

People requesting their own records need to send a signed note that includes their name, social security number, contact information and specific record requested. Those requesting a relative's record also need to provide their relationship to the former Air-

man.

Former Guard and Reserve Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004, can write to HQ ARPC/PSDC, 6760 E. Irvington Place, Suite 4000, Denver, CO 80280 or fax (303) 676-7071 or DSN 926-7071.

Those who retired or separated before Oct. 1, 2004 can visit the NPRC Web site for record request instructions.

This change does not affect the disposition of medical and dental records. They still will be stored permanently at the NPRC.

Personnel chief outlines NSPS, other initiatives

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Defense Department civilians soon will be paid for productivity rather than longevity, while in the future, servicemembers may be required to serve longer tours of duty and spend more time in the military before becoming eligible for retirement.

These initiatives are part of efforts by officials to transform DOD into a more agile and efficient organization for the 21st century, said Dr. David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Dr. Chu said the new National Security Personnel System slated for partial implementation in July will affect about 300,000 of the department's 700,000 civilian employees. Remaining DOD civilian employees are slated to move into the new system beginning around January 2007.

He said current civilian pay scales are based on how "long you've been around." Polls show the younger workers DOD officials are seeking to replace retiring older employees want a more performance-based compensation system.

"They want to join an organization where if you do more, you are rewarded," he said.

Performance for pay "is not an untried principle" at DOD, Dr. Chu said, noting several pay-for-performance pilot programs have been tested through the years.

The system also gives managers the tools to hire new employees more quickly and more means to discipline underproducers.

Dr. Chu said such change is likely to be "upsetting" among a work force accustomed to the older personnel system. Managers who will supervise workers under NSPS will "require training and preparation in order for them to be effective," he said.

He asked DOD employees to be patient as the system is implemented, noting studies of pay-for-performance pilot programs have shown most workers like the new system.

After NSPS has been fully implemented, employees "will have a much happier work force," Dr. Chu said.

He said old civil service rules hamstrung supervisors and often caused servicemembers to be employed for tasks that could be accomplished by civilian employees. Implementation of NSPS will allow more flexible use of civilian employees, while freeing up servicemembers to perform other important duties, Dr. Chu said.

Another initiative that is under study involves establishing longer duty tours for servicemembers, especially senior officers, he said. Some military leaders serve in their posts for too short a time, and many senior officer tours of duty span 18 to 24 months.

"They never have enough tenure to make transformational changes, to see them through to success," Dr. Chu said.

Another personnel change under consideration is increasing the years of service military members need to retire. Today's 20-year minimum required for military retirement "has become something of an 'automatic' event" that began after World War II, he said. The requirement was established in conjunction with an "up-or-out" policy recommended by then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall that was designed to prune veteran servicemembers who had become ineffective partly because of increased age.

But Dr. Chu said today's servicemembers in their 40s and 50s are "physically fit" and are "able to do many of the things that are necessary" in the military environment. Con-

sequently, "we need to have a system that allows them to serve ... on active service longer," he said, and that envisioned change "is one of the most difficult transformational challenges" DOD officials face.

"We are really at (the) early stages in making this shift," he said. "Some of it requires legislative changes, which we have not yet convinced the Congress to make."

Addressing the amount of military pay required to attract and retain quality servicemembers in the future, Dr. Chu said "if we don't keep up a vigorous, upfront compensation package, we will not succeed in the long term."

Achieving transformation requires having "a sharp and appropriate set of tools in your toolkit" and a willingness to adapt new methods of doing military business, he said.

For example, the asymmetrical nature of the war on terror has made U.S. military field hospitals likely enemy targets, he said. Consequently, it is now routine for servicemembers who have been severely wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq to be medically stabilized in local field hospitals and then air-evacuated to "safe havens" in Germany or the United States for further treatment, Dr. Chu said.

This transformational change contrasts with past practices where injured troops often received medical care at facilities established in or near war zones, he said. He credited the field hospitals "for being able to stabilize the patients" and the Air Force for providing the needed "air bridge" support. "We will not go backwards," Dr. Chu said, noting DOD officials will no longer plan to "take heavy, bulky, hard-to-protect medical facilities to the front."

Deleted computer files never truly gone

By Sarah McCaffrey
96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

What you don't know can hurt you, especially when it comes to deleting computer files.

A recent court-martial here involved an Airman who was convicted for possessing child pornography on his home computer.

The Airman thought he was covering his tracks by deleting the incriminating computer files from his computer. He even tried to erase the information from the hard drive, said 96th Air Base Wing legal officials.

In this case, what the Airman didn't know hurt him. "Whenever you delete a file, you're really not deleting the file," said George Stokes, system administrator for Air Armament Center plans and programs office. "The data is still technically there."

The information that people attempt to delete from their computers varies from user to user said Special Agent Robert Renko, Defense Computer Forensics Laboratory director of operations. "People will sometimes try to delete things they think are the 'smoking gun,'" he said. "For ex-

ample, if we're doing a computer forensic exam for a fraud investigation, we might find deleted documents, spreadsheets and e-mails.

On the other hand, in a child pornography investigation, we see more deleted pictures, movies and Web pages." One of the most common ways people try to delete files from their computer is by moving a file to the recycling bin on their computer, Agent Renko said.

Most users think this deletes all traces of the file, but there are other clues, like digital footprints, that can be traced back to the file. Digital footprints are created in multiple places each time a person opens a file.

When people delete files, they don't often think to delete the many digital footprints left behind each time a document is opened, Mr. Stokes said. Although the user may not be able to retrieve the file once they have deleted it, the digital traces indicate the file did exist on the computer. "Sometimes all that is needed for burden of proof is a file name," Mr. Stokes said.

Digital footprints are not the only evidence forensics analysts can recover from supposedly deleted files. Analysts can restore files

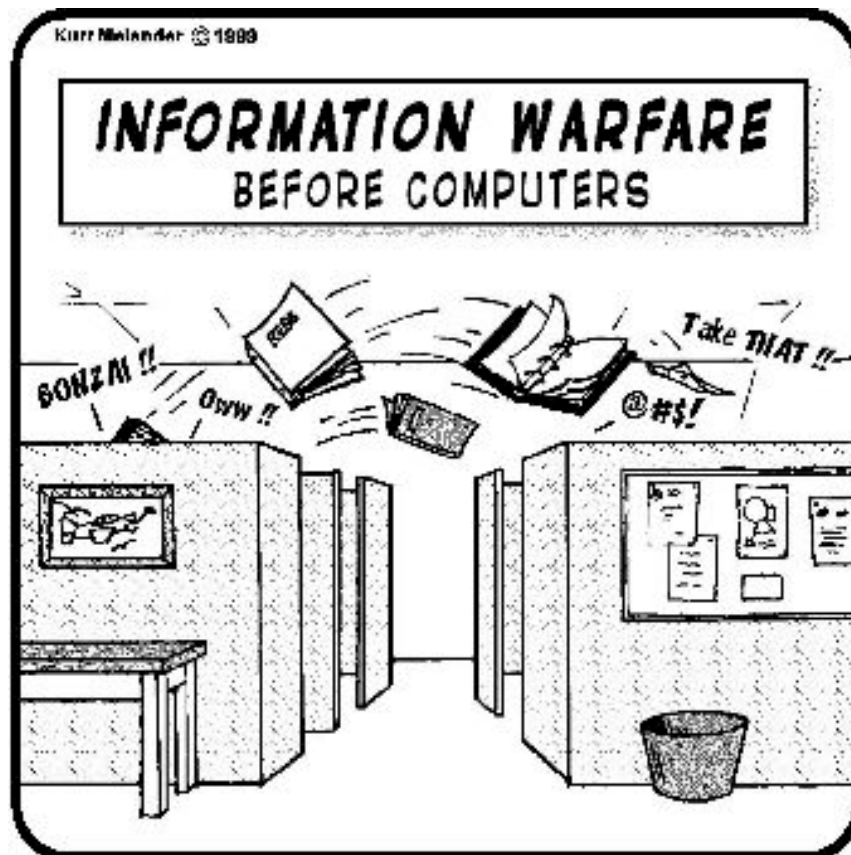
completely and even retrieve all of the information from a certain time period on a computer. "

Our forensics experts are able to recover some pretty amazing things," Agent Renko said. "A Department of Defense investigator recently shipped us evidence where she wanted us to completely reconstruct a 48-hour time period on a suspect's computer.

We were able to do that showing every e-mail sent, every Web page viewed and every program that was run."

The technology available to these analysts can help them recover data even if someone attempts to completely reformat or destroy his or her hard drive, Agent Renko said. "We receive at least one hard drive a week that is damaged in some way," Agent Renko said. "

This week we're working on a drive that the owner attempted to destroy by throwing (it) in a tank of home heating oil." Recovering information from a computer drive doused in heating oil may seem like a tedious and daunting task, but when the outcome is considered, it's worth the work, Mr. Stokes said. "It's a time consuming process, but when you're dealing with people's indiscretions, time is not a factor," Mr. Stokes said.





Promotions

Effective March 1

Master Sgt. Michael Boyd
 Master Sgt. Christopher Kram
 Master Sgt. Lejarey Moten
 Tech. Sgt. Scott Britt
 Tech. Sgt. Randall Hill
 Tech. Sgt. Wayne Johnson
 Tech. Sgt. Corry Slade
 Tech. Sgt. Tonya Smith
 Staff Sgt. Linda Johnston
 Staff Sgt. Arthur Matthews
 Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pilant
 Senior Airman Rochelle Beverly
 Senior Airman Tebogo Morwe
 Senior Airman Jennifer Lee Rogers
 Senior Airman Chante Richardson
 Senior Airman Sheana Talley
 Senior Airman Amber Thompson
 Senior Airman Stephen Wampler
 Senior Airman Tevra Williams
 Airman First Class Latoya Hall
 Airman First Class Khadisha Roebuck
 Airman First Class Tavoris Tyson
 Airman Ivana Vu
 Airman Craig White



Community College of the Air Force Graduates

Tech. Sgt. Shanita Campbell	459 ASTS	Allied Health Sciences
Staff Sgt. Angel Cruzvasquez	459 AMS	Avionic Systems Technology
Tech. Sgt. Michelle Hall	459 SVF	Fitness, Recreation and Services
Staff Sgt. LaTonya McGowan	459 OSF	Health Care Management
Tech. Sgt. Denise Patterson	459 MXS	Aviation Maintenance Technology

Reenlistment Opportunities with the Thunderbirds

If it's time for you to reenlist, have we got a deal for you! The USAF Thunderbirds will reenlist a small group of people in front of their lead jet on May 20 at 2:30 p.m. If you are interested, contact Master Sgt. Constance Banks, wing career advisor, by the close of business of the April UTA. Be sure to leave your contact information with her. We'll take names on a first come, first serve basis. When we find out how many members the Thunderbirds will reenlist, we'll contact you to let you know if you're "in." If you have any questions, please call Master Sgt. Banks at 240-857-5438.



Christmas in April

The 459th Command Chief is soliciting volunteers for "Christmas in April," Saturday, April 30. We have signed up to repair two homes located in Capital Heights Md. The program is designed to help low-income elderly and people with disabilities live in warmth, safety and decency through volunteer renovation and repair of their homes. We are looking for skilled and unskilled volunteers to donate their time to this worthwhile cause. Please sign up with your First Sergeant this UTA. Family members age 15 and older welcome too! This year 100 homes will be repaired in Prince George's County, making it 1,000 homes in all for the program.

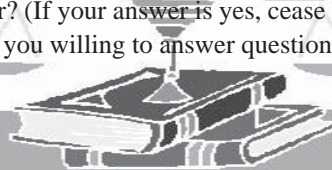
Bundles for Babies

The Family Support Office is hosting a "Bundles for Babies" class sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, May 25. The class will be for expectant mothers or new mom's with babies 0-3 months old. The member (or spouse) can sign up during the April UTA. There will be presentations on newborn care, car seat safety and a few pointers for the new mom and light refreshments served. Each person attending will receive \$75 worth of goodies for their baby along with some great educational booklets. Reservations will be required and space is limited and will be on a first come basis. Reservations can be made by e-mailing Jennifer.Hutcherson@andrews.af.mil or by calling (240) 857-7048.

LEGAL TIP- DO YOU KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS?

Advisement of Rights for Military Personnel

I am (grade, name) a member of the (Air Force security police/ AFOSI). I am investigating the alleged offense(s) of _____, of which you are suspected. I advise you that under the provisions of Article 31, UCMJ, you have the right to remain silent, that is, say nothing at all. Any statement you make, oral or written, may be used as evidence against you in a trial by courts-martial or in other judicial or administrative proceedings. You have the right to consult a lawyer and to have a lawyer present during the interview. You have the right to military legal counsel free of charge. In addition to military counsel, you are entitled to civilian counsel of your own choosing, at your own expense. You may request a lawyer at any time during this interview. If you decide to answer questions, you may stop the questioning at any time. Do you understand your rights? Do you want a lawyer? (If your answer is yes, cease all questions at this point). Are you willing to answer questions?



Push-up Challenge

The 459th First Sergeants Council needs your help in raising money for upcoming wing events and council sponsored community programs. In keeping with AFRC fitness goals, the First Sergeants Council would like to invite all squadrons to compete in a push-up contest. The rules are simple. Each squadron will select one male and one female member to represent them at the wing competition. Squadrons are encouraged to conduct their own competitions to determine their representatives. The contest will identify the member who can do the most push-ups with no time limit. The winning squadron will be determined by the number of push-ups completed for a squadron (the male and female totals combined). The First Sergeants Council will present the winning squadron team with two \$50 cash prizes. A trophy will be given to the winning squadron commander to prominently display for one year. (We're hoping this will become an annual event). All personnel are encouraged to show their team spirit by pledging a donation amount per push up completed by their squadron team. The pledge amount can range anywhere from \$.01 to as high as anyone dares to go. Please be prepared to pay all pledges in full on the day of the contest. The contest will be held on Saturday, June 25 at noon. Location is yet to be determined.

PAY DAYS

Run Date	Check Date
April 20	April 29
April 26	May 4
April 28	May 6
May 3	May 11
May 5	May 13
May 10	May 18
May 12	May 20
May 17	May 25
May 19	May 27
May 23	June 1

Information provided by 459 ARW/FM

2005 UTA SCHEDULE

April 23-24, Alt 9-10
 *May 14-15, Alt 21-22
 June 25-26, Alt 11-12
 July 30-31, Alt 9-10
 Aug. 27-28, Alt 13-14
 Sep 24-25, *Alt 10-11

*This UTA date is a change to the originally published schedule.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Dining Halls

Freedom Hall (Active Duty side)

Breakfast: Weekdays, 5:30 a.m. - 8 a.m.

Lunch: Weekdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dinner: Weekdays, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carryout: Weekdays: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

UTA Weekends brunch: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UTA Weekends dinner: 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Liberty Hall (Reserve side)

Breakfast: weekdays, 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Lunch: weekdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UTA Weekends Brunch: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline

(240) 981-2429

Passport Photos

Passport photos taken UTA Sat., 9:30 a.m. -

noon; UTA Sun., 1 - 3 p.m., at Bldg. 3755,

Rm. 125, (240) 857-2737.

459 AMDS

****New hours of operation****

Mon., Weds., Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tues. & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Military Pay

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UTA Sat., 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Closed UTA Sun.

Office: (240) 857-0314/0315

Easy Pay Access: 1-800-755-7413

Military Personnel Flight

Hours of operation for all MPF offices are Mon.

- Fri. and UTAs: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Customer Service: Rm. 117; 857-3843

*Newcomers: UTA Sat: 7 - 11 a.m.

*AEF and newcomers: UTA Sat: 8 - 11 a.m.

*All other customers: UTA Sat: After 11 a.m.

Career Enhancement: Rm. 118; 857-2853

Education & Training: Rm. 144; 857-9426

Personnel Relocation: Rm. 115; 857-2835

Personnel Employment: Rm. 115; 857-6739

Legal Office

Walk-in Legal Assistance, UTA Sat., 1:30-3:30

p.m.; Sun. 10-11 a.m., Rm. 220-222, Bldg.

3755; (240) 857-3855.

Worship Schedule

Protestant:

Sun. 7:30 a.m.- 459 CES (Bldg. 3756)

Sun. 8:30 a.m.- Chapel 2 (Bldg. 3715)

Sun. 11 a.m.- Chapel 1 (Bldg. 1345)

Catholic Mass:

Sat. 5:30 p.m.- Chapel 3 (Bldg. 1679)

Sun. 9:30 a.m.- Chapel 3 (Bldg. 1679)

Annual requirement brought together many from around the wing to clean weapons



Forty-six reservists, Airman through chief master sergeants, volunteered their time to come out on a weekend to clean the M-16 and 9MM weapons inventory. This is the third time volunteers have gotten together to meet this requirement. "Each squadron is technically responsible for cleaning their own weapons," said Master Sgt. Kathy Gray, logistics supply manager, 459 LRF, who facilitates the weapons cleaning each year, "but we always end up opening it up to anyone who wants to volunteer." If members of the 459th Air Refueling Wing were to be activated and deploy, these are the weapons they would bring, said Sergeant Gray, so it's imperative that we keep them in working and serviceable condition.

(Above right corner) Senior Airman Jessica Rosado, 69 APS, wipes grease off the firing pin of an M-16. Senior Airman Jason Kress, 459 AMXS, cleans the barrel of an M-16. Airman First Class Layetta Green, 69 APS, wipes down a tiny part of an M-16. (Bottom left corner) Senior Airman Darryl Brodie, 459 LRF, helps count inventory of the cleaned weapons. (Photos by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell).

459TH AIR REFUELING WING
AIR FORCE RESERVE
3755 PATRICK AVENUE
ANDREWS AFB MD 20762-4814
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

First Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Temple Hills MD
Permit No. 4004